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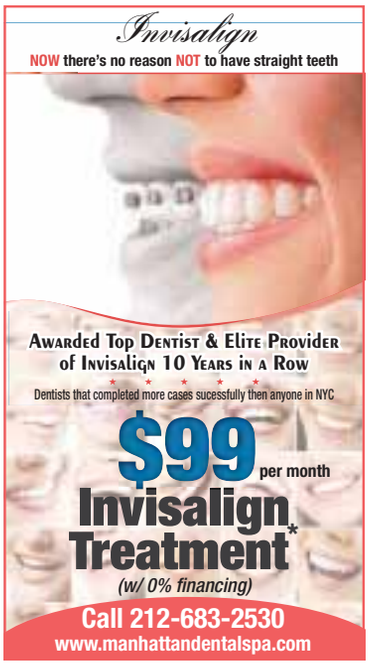
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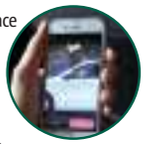
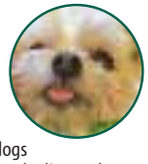


Drivers for ride-hailing app Lyft will no longer face the imperative of owning a car under a rental program launched with General Motors. The initiative is the first to come out of a two-month-old partnership between the automotive giant and ride service upstart, and is Lyft's latest move to get more drivers on its app as it continues to trail ride-hailing behemoth Uber. To kick off the program, GM will provide a fleet of 125 Chevrolet Equinox cars to drivers in Chicago by the end of the month, the companies said. "We have now made car ownership optional on both sides of the market," said Lyft President and co-founder John Zimmer. Passengers don't need to own a car if they use Lyft, he said, and now drivers do not need to own a car to work for it. REUTERS

FIGHTING SPREADS IN SOUTHEAST TURKEY AFTER ANKARA BOMB

2 Fighting between Turkish security forces and Kurdish militants spread, with tanks, helicopters and armored cars deployed after a suicide bombing that killed 37 people in the capital Ankara. The deadliest violence took place in Diyarbakir, the largest city in mainly Kurdish southeastern Turkey, where Kurdistan Workers Party fighters blocked roads and clashed with security forces overnight as a police helicopter flew overhead, witnesses said. One police officer and three militants were killed in Diyarbakir and a second police officer was killed in the town of Nusaybin, where the PKK launched an attack, security sources said. No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's car bomb that tore through a crowded transport hub in Ankara. REUTERS

RESTAURANTS TO ALLOW CANINES AT OUTDOOR TABLES



3 New York City dogs will find it even easier to beg for scraps under new rules that allow them to sit with their owners at restaurants' outdoor tables. The city's health department on Tuesday released new regulations under a state law passed last year that permits municipalities to set their own rules for dogs in outdoor dining areas. Under the rules, dogs must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies, though restaurants will not be required to verify that dogs have the proper paperwork as an earlier draft had called for. Instead, participating restaurants must post signs to alert customers to the requirements. The regulations take effect in mid-April, just as the outdoor dining season begins in earnest. REUTERS

The penalties for abandoning this little guy might soon get much worse. GETTY IMAGES

Bill would double fines for pet abandonment

A New York bill would apply additional penalties to owners who abandon and stop providing care for their animals.

ALAN J. KRAWITZ
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Animal rights activists in the city and across the state are applauding new legislation that would double the fines for New York residents who walk away from their pets without providing any type of care for them.

Senate bill S410, which was recently passed by the Senate and is now under review by the Assembly, would double the fine for abandoning an animal to $2,000 from $1,000, while continuing to carry a possible penalty of up to a year in prison.

The penalty would apply to owners who abandon and stop providing care for their animals as well as to those who fail to retrieve an injured pet when found in a public place and they are notified of its whereabouts.

State Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., who supports the legislation, said "Unfortunately, many people, for a variety of reasons, simply abandon their animals when they decide they can't or won't care for them anymore.

"This is cruel and contributes significantly to spiraling animal overpopulation and associated problems in many communities," he said.

Addabbo added that there is little downside to the legislation and said it has a "good chance of being passed by the Assembly and signed into law by the governor."

Although pet abandonment numbers are not tracked by the state or city, according to the ASPCA, the scope of the problem is evident from the numbers of stray animals that are picked up each year by various animal care organizations.

$2K
FINE

1
UP TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL

Jane Hoffman, president of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, a nonprofit coalition of animal welfare organizations, noted that according to statistics from the city's Animal Care and Control agency, last year more than 5,000 dogs and nearly 14,000 cats were taken in for care.

Asked about the legislation, Hoffman said it's a good start, but more needs to be done.

"I'm very pleased when members of the legislature consider animal abuse or neglect a serious offense; it's been too long in coming."

However, Hoffman said the reasons people abandon animals are complex and that more often than not they involve people moving and not being allowed to take their pet with them.

"In the past," she said, "the law required landlords to accept people with pets, but that's changed and now stands as a major reason why some pet owners abandon pets."

Other reasons people abandon pets include not being able to afford food and veterinary care.

Hoffman said some possible fixes could allow food banks to also provide pet food and for other city-based animal care organizations to step in with either free or low-cost pet care, such as the Humane Society of New York, which already provides such care.

"It's been too long in coming."
Hoffman

But Hoffman said there are those who simply will disobey the law and abandon unwanted pets no matter what the penalty.

For Manhattan resident Deborah Ciavolella, owner of a dachshund rescued from a notorious puppy mill in West Virginia in 2008, she had little sympathy for those who would abandon their pet.

"Not increasing the imprisonment of up to one year incites me. Up to a year in jail is a menial consequence for such malicious conduct," Ciavolella said. "The mandatory penalty should be two and two: a $2,000 fine and two years in jail, period. No exceptions!"

Added Addabbo: "We need to take action to address animal overpopulation, cruelty and abandonment on a number of different fronts, and increasing penalties for irresponsible owner behavior is one part of the puzzle."

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Family of black man slain in NY suburb reaches $6M settlement

Danroy Henry Jr., 20, who was a junior at Pace University, was fatally shot in 2010.

The family of a black university student who was shot to death by police in a suburb north of New York City have reached a $6 million settlement with the town where he was shot and the officer, the family's attorney said on Monday.

The agreement comes amid heightened scrutiny of police violence, particularly against people of color, in the wake of numerous high-profile police slayings of unarmed black people since mid-2014 that have fueled the Black Lives Matter movement.

Danroy Henry Jr, 20, who was a junior at Pace University, where he was a football player, was fatally shot by Officer Aaron Hess early on the morning of Oct. 17, 2010.

Henry's parents, Angella Henry and Danroy Henry Sr, of Massachusetts, filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, in White Plains, against the village of Pleasantville, which is some 30 miles north of New York City, and against Hess.

Michael Sussman, an attorney for the family, said they accepted an offer of judgment in the amount of $6 million from the defendants.

Representatives for Hess and the town of Pleasantville could not be immediately reached for comment Monday night.

Federal prosecutors declined to bring charges against the officers from the town of Mount Pleasant and Pleasantville, saying: "Neither accident, mistake, fear, negligence nor bad judgment is sufficient to establish a willful federal criminal civil rights violation."

Sussman said he was still pursuing a separate lawsuit against Mount Pleasant and several of its officers, alleging they failed to provide Henry needed medical care after the shooting. REUTERS

The fatal incident

Henry was with several friends at a bar when a fight broke out that prompted the owner to close down around 1 a.m. and call the police, according to prosecutors and court records.

Henry got in his car and waited for his friends in a fire lane outside the establishment, and when an officer knocked on his car window, Henry drove off.

Hess then appeared in front of the car and Henry attempted to brake before striking Hess. After the collision, Hess opened fire on Henry while on the car's hood, killing Henry and injuring a passenger.

Danroy Henry's mother Angela wipes away a tear next to Brandon Cox, who was with Henry the night he was killed. GETTY IMAGES

Other settlements

Police killings that have sparked waves of angry protest and nights of rioting elsewhere in the United States since mid-2014 have led to multi-million dollar settlements, including a $6.4 million payout to the family of Freddie Gray in Baltimore and $5.9 million to the estate of Eric Garner in New York City.

BRIEF

Mother arrested in Sunset Park toddler's death

The 24-year-old mother of a Brooklyn toddler found unconscious in a bathtub over the weekend has been arrested in her death, authorities said.

The death of Melody Pheng, 2, was ruled a homicide, police reported Tuesday. Police had been interviewing her parents since Monday, according to media reports, and later charged the mother.

Lin Li has been charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter and act in a manner injurious to a child, police said.

Pheng was pronounced dead Sunday night at a hospital after she was found unresponsive around 8:30 p.m. in a bathtub at her Sunset Park home, according to authorities.

Officials told Pix11 New York that a 4-year-old boy was also found in the house, and was being checked for any potential signs of abuse.

Pheng's 30-year-old father, who was also interviewed by police, is not expected to face any charges, according to ABC7 New York. JASON NUCKOLLS

Sunset Park GOOGLE MAPS

Sheldon Silver, Dean Skelos to be sentenced on same day

Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver will now be sentenced on the same day as former State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, both men convicted of corruption charges last year in separate trials.

On Monday, Judge Kimba M. Wood rescheduled Skelos' sentencing for April 13, which had been previously established as Silver's sentencing date, The New York Times reported.

The two men were convicted of similar corruption charges in 2015, and though they both worked in state-level politics, they came from different backgrounds as Silver was a Manhattan Democrat and Skelos was a Long Island Republican, the Times added.

Silver and Skelos GETTY IMAGES

Skelos' son, convicted alongside his father, will also be sentenced on April 13, Newsday reported.

A federal court spokesman was quoted by the Times, saying, "There is no master calendar. Each judge is responsible for their own scheduling," and a government official underscored that point by saying that the schedules were coincidental.

Given the volume of legal motions expected to be filed before the sentencing date, both dates could be moved again, according to The New York Times. JASON NUCKOLLS

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NYC student initiative has passion for fashion

A score of fashion firms will offer paid internships for NYC students this summer.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

A select group of young New Yorkers will have a fashion-filled summer giving them a firsthand look at what it takes to thrive in the growing fashion industry.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) announced Monday the launch of the NYC Fashion Forward initiative — which will give students access to the fashion industry through paid internships.

As part of the initiative, 100 city high school and undergraduate college students will be connected this summer to internships at fashion companies throughout the city.

"Connecting our young people to valuable internship opportunities is not just about creating a career launching pad. NYC Fashion Forward is also shaping a homegrown talent pool that will satisfy the fashion industry's growing demand for diverse and loyal employees," said Gabrielle Fialkoff, senior advisor to the mayor and director of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships. "Together, we can ensure that our young people, our businesses and our city are better prepared to compete in the 21st-century economy."

NYCEDC will financially back 60 of the summer jobs while the Mayor's Fund and CFDA will work with prominent, large-scale fashion firms to create the remaining 40 internships.

Participants

Participating companies include: 3.1 Phillip Lim, Alice + Olivia, CFDA, Coach, David Wolfson & Associates Inc., Design Incubator Inc., Designers & Agents, Diane von Furstenberg, J. Crew, Haskell Jewels LLC, K/ILLER COLLECTION, Kate Spade & Co., Krupp Group, Lulu Frost, Maison De Mode, Melissa Joy Manning, New York Embroidery Studio, Nicholas K, Opening Ceremony, Rachel Comey, Timo Weiland and Tommy Hilfiger.

Students will be selected from the NYC Ladders for Leaders program, which allows city students the chance to participate in paid summer internships with leading large and also small businesses, nonprofits and government agencies.

Once selected, each student will receive 30 hours of pre-employment training and begin their internship in July. The internship will then last for six weeks and each student will work about 25 hours per week.

The NYC Fashion Forward initiative is part of the NYC Center for Youth Employment's efforts to offer young talent the chance to work in the city's industries.

"In order to further cultivate our city's robust fashion industry, we must create a pipeline of talent that can build on our already thriving ecosystem," said Maria Torres-Springer, president of NYCEDC. "NYC Fashion Forward helps nurture the next generation of designers, manufacturers and fashion professionals, helping to ensure that New York City remains the fashion capital of the world."

So far a total of 22 companies have committed to offering paid internships, including Coach.

"Coach was founded on the principles of design innovation and know-how that come from the diligent pursuit of craft," said Victor Luis, CEO of Coach Inc. "So naturally, we believe in a program that honors the passion and dedication of those who want to pursue careers in the industry from a young age. Creating this kind of professional exposure and opportunity will help them create a bright future in the industry."

NYC students will have the chance to intern in the fashion industry. GETTY IMAGES

NYC makes list of US cities with worst traffic

The next time you find yourself stuck in traffic, and seconds from losing your mind, just know — you're not alone.

INRIX Inc. released its 2015 Traffic Scorecard on Tuesday, ranking the top U.S. cities with the worst traffic.

The cities are rated based on the average time wasted per commuter, and cities such as Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Houston, New York and Seattle are ranked as the most congested, where commuters spent a total of 8 billion hours stuck in traffic last year.

According to INRIX, the data revealed by the report allows governments and agencies both in the United States and Europe to measure progress in improving urban mobility, and it allows officials to target challenges.

The afternoon traffic is seen at the intersection of 52nd Street and the Avenue of the Americas. GETTY IMAGES

"INRIX partners with more than 200 governments and agencies worldwide, providing them with the industry's most accurate mobility data and analytics to tackle transportation challenges and enhance intelligent movement," said Bryan Mistele, president and CEO of INRIX. "The 2015 Traffic Scorecard is our response to their need for a quantifiable benchmark to track the impact of their spending on smart city initiatives."

Based on the report, as cities continue to see growth in the economy and population, increase in employment rates and decline in gas prices, congestion continues to grow because there are more drivers on the road.

For cities that have seen the most economic improvement in the past year — such as New York and Boston — there are higher risks for consequences related to worsened traffic conditions. Some of these consequences include reduced productivity, higher emissions and increased stress levels.

The United States makes up 50 percent of the top 10 metros with the worst traffic congestion. London tops the list of "gridlock-plagued cities" with 101 hours of delays per commuter.

The U.S. also leads the list of countries with the most hours wasted in traffic — with an average of close to 50 hours per commuter in 2015. Countries like Belgium, with 44 hours wasted in traffic; and the Netherlands, with 39 hours wasted, follow right behind.

INRIX added that big cities need to apply the data to create "intelligent transportation systems" that will help solve the issue of urban mobility. The data from the report can allow city planners and engineers to make decisions on where to spend to cause the bigger impacts.

"When working with limited budgets to manage transportation systems, using data-based performance metrics can make a major difference in the outcomes of planning and implementing new infrastructure," the report said.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

Top 10

The top 10 cities in the country were:

1. Los Angeles, California – 81 hours
2. Washington, D.C. – 75 hours
3. San Francisco, California – 75 hours
4. Houston, Texas – 74 hours
5. New York, New York – 73 hours
6. Seattle, Washington – 66 hours
7. Boston, Massachusetts – 64 hours
8. Chicago, Illinois – 60 hours
9. Atlanta, Georgia – 59 hours
10. Honolulu, Hawaii – 49 hours

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(SMILE)

New safety measures for shelters

As part of the improvements, DHS will restore a domestic violence program at the shelters that was terminated in 2010.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
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letters@metro.us

The Pan Am Shelter in Queens, a former hotel which currently houses dozens of homeless families, has been denounced by area residents who fear higher crime rates and lower property values if homeless people stay there. GETTY IMAGES

City officials are making sure residents at all New York City homeless shelters are safe through a new set of improvements.

As part of a 90-day widespread review of homeless services, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Tuesday a new program that aims to improve safety at the shelters throughout the city.

The new measures include immediate retraining of all Department of Homeless Services security staff by the NYPD as well as the NYPD sending a management team to DHS to develop an action plan to upgrade security at all shelter facilities.

Family shelters are also expected to restore a domestic violence program and the city will implement a more extensive reporting system for incidents that happen at the shelter locations.

"I've been clear that we are going to own the challenges of homelessness and be transparent about how serious they are and what we are doing to deal with them," de Blasio said. "We want homeless shelters to be safe and clean, but at the same time we must and we will continue to move families out and prevent them from coming to shelter in the first place."

Currently DHS provides security at the shelters through a mixture of DHS peace officers, FJC Contracted security guards and through directly funding shelter providers to offer security at the sites.

The NYPD will immediately begin retraining all DHS security staff, while security has been increased at mental health shelters and commercial hotels.

The city will also re-establish a domestic violence program at the shelters that was terminated in 2010. Based on a new analysis, according to officials, violence within families is the most common form of violent incident in family shelters.

According to the city, Families with Children shelters saw 60 percent of violent incidents being domestic violence, and Adult Family shelters saw 80 percent of such incidents.

The Human Resources Administration's No Violence Again (NoVA) Out-stationed Domestic Violence Services will be expanded to shelters to offer families the access to domestic violence services.

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence will also work with DHS to implement systemwide intimate partner violence (IPV) training for DHS employees and contracted staff. DHS will have a senior official in charge of coordinating the delivery of domestic violence services and other related services.

"Restoring in-reach programs throughout the shelter system will help identify many more New Yorkers who otherwise would suffer in silence," said Mary Brosnahan, president and CEO of Coalition for the Homeless.

As part of the new measures, the city has also set forth a more inclusive and accurate reporting of critical incidents that occur within the shelters. This also includes, for the first time, separate reporting of violent incidents.

Previously, DHS reported "critical incidents" which included only some violent incidents. The review found that definitions of such incidents were unclear and inconsistently reported across the agency.

Now, new reporting categories have been created and have been applied to all 2015 incidents, which were reported to DHS. Violence for the critical incidents at the shelters now includes wider definitions of domestic violence, assault and both child abuse and neglect.

Through these measures the city hopes to address the incidents and provide proper follow-ups.

"Homelessness may be synonymous with despair — but protecting homeless women and children from brutality and providing them the emotional support to heal are the two key essentials to shifting their lives toward hope and prosperity," Brosnahan said.

Manhattan's Hudson Yards station plagued by problems

Six months after opening, the new Hudson Yards station suffers from out-of-service escalators, bathroom flooding and possible mold on the ceiling.

The $2.4 billion station's bathrooms and two of its five escalators are out of working order, and riders have spotted what could be brown mold on the ceiling, the New York Post reported.

"During rush hour, it's too much with two of the escalators not working. It's always dripping, too. They were covered in ice when it was snowing, and people were slipping," Mannie Rivera of the Bronx was quoted by the Post. "I don't know how they spent all that money with all these issues."

Despite the brown discoloration spotted on the ceiling, an MTA spokesman told CBS2 in a related report that there is no mold at the station but there have been leaks.

"The escalator — when you come downstairs — you can see the water dripping down," a commuter named Danny was quoted by CBS. "It's just a shame, it took so long for this to open up. This is sad."

Problems began for the new station, which is part of the current push to redevelop Manhattan's west side around the Javits Center and Hudson River Park, soon after it opened when an escalator had to be taken out of service on its second day, according to CBS.

NYC's newest subway station is proving problematic. MILES DIXON

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz told the Post that Yonkers Contracting Co., which worked on the excavation and structure for the new station, would pay for the current needed repairs, though there is not yet an available timeline for when things will be back to working order. JASON NUCKOLLS

BRIEF

The suspects NYPD

Group of suspects attack two men in East Village with bottles, punches: NYPD

Police have released images of a group of four suspects they say are wanted for randomly assaulting two men in the East Village last week — causing multiple injuries.

On March 11 at about 2:20 a.m. a 26-year-old and 23-year-old victims were walking near the vicinity of 119 East 11th Street when they were approached by the group of four men, who then assaulted them with bottles and punched them, according to authorities.

The 26-year-old man sustained a broken orbital bone in his head, police said, and the 23-year-old man sustained a broken orbital bone, broken jaw, and a cut to the face that required stitches.

No property was taken during the attack and both victims were treated at Bellevue Hospital.

Anyone with information in regards to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). ANGY ALTAMIRANO

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Kasich scores big win in his home state

John Kasich won the Ohio primary. The race was called about 8:46 p.m., with Kasich leading Donald Trump by about 9 points, 44 to 32. "We're going to be working all across this country," Kasich said after the race was called. The win in Ohio provides Kasich a legitimate reason to stay in the race.

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump scored a crucial win in the Florida primary on Tuesday, ending the presidential hopes of Marco Rubio and moving closer to securing the party's nomination as five U.S. states voted.

Trump was aiming to sweep all five states on Tuesday, including Ohio, Missouri, North Carolina and Illinois, and deal another setback to establishment Republicans who fear his rowdy campaign will lead the party to defeat in November.

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, 68, also captured the Florida primary as she aimed to put some distance between herself and rival Bernie Sanders, 74, a senator from Vermont, in primaries in the same states. REUTERS

John Kasich GETTY IMAGES

Rubio ends bid

Marco Rubio ended his campaign on Tuesday for the Republican presidential nomination after failing to translate support from the party's establishment into victories in primary states.

The decision also came after poor performances last week in Michigan and Mississippi where he attracted only single-digit support in the polls.

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BRIEF

Russian warplanes leave Syria, raising UN hopes for peace talks

Russian warplanes flew home from Syria on Tuesday as Moscow started to withdraw forces that have tipped the war President Bashar al-Assad's way, and the U.N. envoy said he hoped the move would help peace talks in Geneva.

As the first aircraft touched down in Russia, U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura called President Vladimir Putin's move a "significant development" toward resolving a crisis which this week passes its fifth anniversary.

While Assad's opponents hope the announcement signals a shift in Russian support, its full significance has yet to become clear: Russia is keeping an air base and an undeclared number of forces in Syria.

Russian jets were in action against Islamic State on Tuesday. Assad also still enjoys military backing from Iran, which has sent forces to Syria along with Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Putin's surprise announcement has led to speculation that Moscow may want to press Assad toward showing more flexibility at the Geneva talks, where his government has ruled out discussion of the presidency or a negotiated transfer of power.

Damascus has dismissed any talk of differences with its ally and says the move was coordinated and the result of army gains on the ground. Russia, however, last month expressed frustration with Assad, saying he was out of step with its diplomacy.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, whose government supports the opposition, indicated the gaps in Western understanding of Putin, saying he had "no insight at all into Russia's strategy" after a decision that came out of the blue. REUTERS

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Police officers stand at the site of a shooting on Dries-Driesstraat at Forest-Vorst in Brussels on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Brussels raid house of Paris suspects

Streets around the house in a southern section of the city were sealed off by police, journalists at the scene said.

Belgian police on Tuesday killed a gunman in a raid on a Brussels apartment linked to Islamist militants involved in November's Paris attacks, and two others were on the run, state broadcaster RTBF reported.

Belgium's federal prosecutor said earlier one or more suspects had barricaded themselves into an apartment after police had come under heavy weapon fire through a door when carrying out the raid.

Belgian media said four police officers were wounded.

Belgian daily DH said one suspect was shot dead after being spotted from a police helicopter in a nearby garden.

Phone calls made by Reuters seeking comment from police and prosecutors were not answered.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said French police took part in the raid in the Belgian capital. Streets around the house in a southern section of the city were sealed off by police, Reuters journalists at the scene said.

"This operation is connected to the Paris attacks," a spokesman for Belgium's federal prosecutor said.

Reuters journalists heard gunshots as police commandos crowded into the street where the raid unfolded.

Investigators believe much of the planning and preparation for the Nov. 13 bombing and shooting rampage in Paris that killed 130 people were carried out by young French and Belgian nationals, some of whom fought in Syria for Islamic State.

The area around Tuesday's raid, near a car factory and a major north-south railway linking Paris and Amsterdam, was sealed off, and a police helicopter buzzed overhead.

Police told residents to stay indoors and schools and kindergartens close to the scene of the shootings were in lockdown, residents said.

Belgian security forces have been actively hunting suspects and associates of the militants involved in the attacks in Paris. Some of the attackers came from Brussels. REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE

Trump's appeal divides Tea Party loyalties

Having loyal Tea Party supporters could also help him fend off moves to block his nomination at the Republican National Convention in July if he falls short of the threshold of 1,237 delegates that would guarantee him the party's candidacy.

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump has effectively split the conservative Tea Party movement, as his fiery campaign draws in followers of the group who had been expected to line up behind Ted Cruz, a more consistent champion of small government.

As the Republican race moves to the crucial battlegrounds of Ohio and Florida among three other states on Tuesday, Tea Party support promises to help Trump's campaign offset its relative lack of on-the-ground organization compared to Texas Senator Cruz, his closest rival nationally.

A Reuters review of Trump's list of 66 Ohio delegates – who would represent him at the nominating convention if he wins the primary and provide crucial support in the event of a contested convention – found that 28 are Tea Party leaders, members or are otherwise linked to the movement, including officials who have been featured speakers at Tea Party events.

Using the same benchmark, 27 of Cruz's delegates have links with the grassroots group, which sprang to national promi-

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WHITE HOUSE

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves goodbye as he greets the crowd after speaking during a campaign event at Winner Aviation in Vienna, Ohio, on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

nence in 2009 on anger over government bailouts, and demands for tax cuts and less "intrusive" government.

Despite Trump's mixed record as a conservative, the real estate mogul's promises to shake up Washington, throw out illegal immigrants and tear up "unfair" trade deals have won over many influential Tea Party followers, according to interviews with activists across more than a dozen states.

> *"If the primaries result in a contested convention, I'm in his corner all the way."*
>
> Ralph King

"Trump has never asked me for a dime and being self funded he's the only one that can blow up the Republican Party establishment," said Ralph King, a Trump delegate and member of the Cleveland Tea Party. REUTERS

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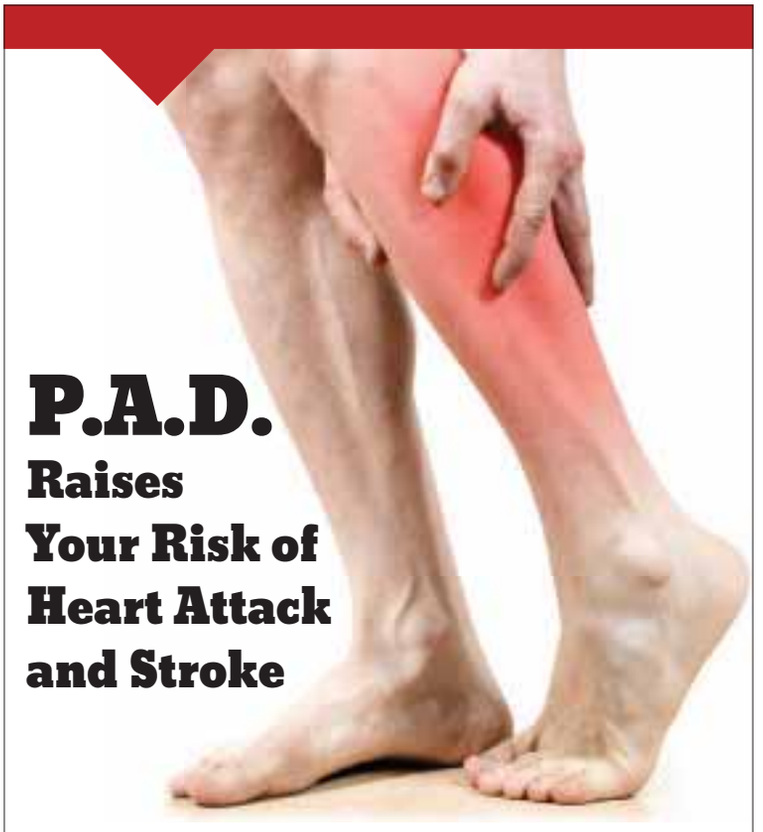

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THOUSANDS of knee arthritis sufferers flock for this advanced medical treatment - How they relieved pain while so many continue to suffer

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Why patients come from all over the Tri-State area for this knee arthritis pain treatment and why waiting can decrease your chance to live pain free. life again

Downtown NYC Medical Institute is a medical clinic with multiple locations in New York City that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients.
Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. And why waiting drastically decreases your chances to live a pain free life again.

The information you are about to read can possibly save you from years and years of agonizing knee pain.
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Please pay careful attention.
What you are about to read is a cutting-edge medical treatment... but it is NOT what it appears to be at first glance.
In fact, I'm going to have to ask for a bit of patience from you if you have already ***unsuccessfully*** tried any (or many) other knee arthritis pain treatments.
You see, many knee arthritis sufferers had already tried the treatment we are going to talk about and did not get the results they wanted. But I assure you there is something VERY DIFFERENT about the technology and the way we do this treatment that makes it much different.
And often gets results when many others have failed.
This is why patients come from all over the tri-state area and beyond to have their knee arthritis pain treated here.

Would You Like Instant Proof?

precisely inject directly into the knee joint. This helps replace the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - allowing it to move more freely and smoothly and often decreasing or even eliminating the pain.

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And it is: "I wish I started this treatment much sooner." *Let's be very clear about this*. Time is the most precious thing. There is no way to slow it down - or get any back once it is gone. All the more reason for you to not suffer even one more second than you have to. Missing life suffering in pain is a tragedy. It's time for you to get rid of your knee pan and start living the life you want and deserve.

And please understand this: One of the keys to success in medicine is early diagnosis and treatment. Like many diseases, arthritis only gets worse over time. The longer you wait - the more damage to your knee and the more pain you will be in. If you wait too long, the entire knee joint will be degenerated and your ONLY option will be total knee replacement.

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Another Important Factor

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What To Do Next If You Are In Pain:
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Downtown NYC Medical Institute offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at Downtown NYC Medical Institute.

For a complimentary screening, just call 800-227-KNEE. The screenings fill up fast every month. This screening is no cost and there is no further obligation. Call| 800-227-KNEE to schedule your screening.

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I'm out there playing!

"I feel like a new woman"

I came to the clinic because I was not sleeping at night. My leg was Pounding. There were times when I sat too long the knee would tighten up. I would get in pain and I would be miserable and I would have it for the whole night. **After the treatment I goof around with my grandchildren. I feel like a new woman.** It's great. I know I don't have to sit on the couch and be in pain and I can just pick up and get dressed and go out. It was so gentle.

It got to the point where I couldn't stand up for a period of time and I knew something had to be done about it. You walk into the doctors office - he puts your leg in a machine - he shows you where he is going to do the procedure and before you know it... it's done and you're outta there. Now I'm able to take out my bicycle a couple of the guys and myself we took a couple of rides out in the woods and we had a good time and ***I couldn't do that for years and now I'm able to do it again.***

The pain was excruciating like 24/7. Nothing I took over-the-counter would work so I knew it was something more serious. When I saw that my condition was not getting any better, I decided to do something about it and I immediately made an appointment - I went and started treatment. **The feeling of getting back to my dancing and my mobility is indescribable. I feel like a new woman - It's amazing.**

"I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure"

One day, as I was running, my knee got tighter and tighter. I had to stop and just walk home. They x-rayed me and said I was a candidate for it. You sit there for about 2-3 minutes and then you are up and walking out the door. I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure because I could not run just weeks before. I ran my race without any issues. I felt good - it just opened a door that was closing.

"I Can Finally Live My Life"

Prior the the relief center I was taking (9:30) and I was becoming addicted to it and it was damaging my health. Since the treatment, I've been able to be less dependent on them. I don't feel helpless anymore. **Since going through the procedure I can finally live. I can finally live my life.**

Graphic account of Hulk Hogan sex tape read aloud in court

Gawker founder Nick Denton read out a graphic account of the acts shown in a sex tape featuring wrestling celebrity Hulk Hogan in a Florida courtroom Tuesday, saying it "stands up to the test of time" years after his company put it on the Internet.

Gawker was sued for $100 million by Hogan, who says the 2012 release of the tape violated his privacy. The New York media company could be forced out of business by an unfavorable verdict in a civil trial testing the limits of freedom of the press.

Hogan's attorneys asked Denton, a high-profile figure in the world of Web publishing, to read aloud an article accompanying the video, which he did in an even tone.

The lawsuit centers on the one-minute, 41-seconds of video that Gawker excerpted from the sex tape of unknown origin.

Terry Bollea, aka Hulk Hogan, testifies in court. GETTY IMAGES

The video has not yet been shown to the jury in St. Petersburg, Florida, near Hogan's home.

The video shows his tryst with the wife of his then-best friend, radio "shock jock" personality Bubba the Love Sponge. Hogan says their consensual encounter was recorded without his knowledge five years before Gawker's posting.

Denton said he had not watched the video, nor read the article before publication. He described his role as broadly overseeing the portfolio of websites under Gawker media.

But when asked by a juror how the posting fit into Gawker's goal to produce "true and interesting" journalism, he stood by the piece.

"We are talking about it now," he said. "I don't think anyone would dispute that it has been an interesting piece."

Denton's testimony, spread out over two days, highlighted his work in print media before starting Gawker, whose outlets include technology-oriented Gizmodo and Jezebel, which is focused on women's topics.

Seeing traditional media as often stodgy, Denton said his outlets aim "to peel back the surface, show what is going on behind the scenes."

"Today's gossip is tomorrow's news," he said, describing Gawker's motto. REUTERS

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Jaden Smith will wear a dress, OK?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Second-generation Hollywood scion and Twitter capitalization abuser Jaden Smith wants to make one thing clear: He doesn't care what you think about him wearing skirts and dresses, so stop trying to impose your outmoded ideas of fashion and gender norms on him. Sheesh.

"I feel like people are kind of confused about gender norms. I feel like people don't really get it," he tells British GQ. "I'm not saying that I get it, I'm just saying that I've never seen any distinction. I don't see man clothes and woman clothes, I just see scared people and comfortable people."

But, if you thought for a moment that maybe you and Smith the Younger were finally seeing eye to eye on something and maybe, just maybe, the musing-prone teen was finally making sense, he's got some world-healing ambitions locked and loaded to alienate you again, don't worry: "I'm really working towards just fixing the whole planet Earth. I really just want to create a utopia on this planet," he says. "I really want to make it so that people don't have to die to pay bills and just work to survive. So that they can work to actually live and do the things that they love to do." Oh, is that all?

Kerry Washington sticks to her privacy guns

Kerry Washington doesn't know how she can make this any clearer: She doesn't talk about her personal life. In interviews, on Twitter, wherever. And that means not addressing rumors that she and husband Nnamdi Asomugha are headed for a divorce.

"I think — and this is something Reese Witherspoon has talked about a lot — it's a little different for me because I don't talk about my personal life," the "Scandal" star said during a SXSW panel. "Social media has actually been great for [other celebrities'] relationships with the weeklies or the gossip sites because people say things and they say, 'That's not true! Just so you know, that's BS!'" While that's tempting, that's not Washington's M.O., though.

"If I don't talk about my personal life, it means I don't talk about my personal life," she added. "That means not only did I not tell you when I was getting married, it also means if somebody has rumors about what's going on in my marriage, I don't refute them, because I don't talk about my personal life." So … no comment, then?

@MarkRuffalo
Chicago shows Americans will not take Trump's outrageous nonsense lying down

@parkerposey
I'm going to terrify people when I hit the streets.

@rickygervais
You know how wacky university students elect a dog or stuffed toy as university president for a laugh? Maybe that's what America is doing?

Ben Affleck is fine with Ricky Gervais joking about him

The new "Batman v Superman" movie is nearly upon us, which means we're about to see a noted uptick in Ben Affleck interviews. And while I'm not expecting him to be as forthcoming as soon-to-be ex-wife Jennifer Garner was in Vanity Fair, he's going to have to say something. And look! He's already started. The New York Times asked Affleck about Ricky Gervais' Golden Globes joke made at his expense — "He's also the only person who Ben Affleck hasn't been unfaithful to: Please welcome Matt Damon" — and Affleck's totally down.

"It's the way Ricky Gervais perceives me, I suppose," Affleck says. "I've had jokes made at my expense before. It's part of the deal."

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Nobby speaks

Sacha Baron Cohen talks to us in the guise of his "Brothers Grimsby" character.

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Sacha Baron Cohen, in atypical fashion, hasn't been doing the press tours for his new film "The Brothers Grimsby" entirely in character. One reason: Unlike Ali G, Borat and Bruno, his newest character — Nobby, the Northern English hooligan and layabout at the helm of the action-comedy — is too new and not widely known. But he did some interviews in character — including this one. We spoke to Cohen-as-Nobby for the dirty, crazy, politically incorrect movie, which finds him reuniting with his long-lost brother (Mark Strong), who just happens to be a James Bond-ian superspy.

Do you ever feel ashamed?

Well, I'm hungover, I'm covered in vomit, my older son's been arrested for burning down his school and my 9-year-old just got his probation officer pregnant. So today, no, I'm not ashamed, I'm proud. I'm also proud that, apart from me, four other cast members in this movie are actually from Grimsby, which makes it the town's biggest employer!

Russia's been in the news lately. What do you know about that country?

When I became a spy, I had to learn all sorts of amazing facts about Russia. I've noticed from my research — Bond films and pornography — that Russian women are generally sexier than the girls where I'm from. When the Vikings arrived in England — raping and pillaging — and got to Grimsby, they said: "Do you know what? Let's maybe just do some pillaging here."

Sacha Baron Cohen plays Nobby, a Northern English layabout who goes on an action adventure with his long-lost superspy brother (Mark Strong, left) in "The Brothers Grimsby." SONY

In the film, you put some firecrackers up your behind, which actually didn't look that funny ...

Well, it wasn't funny for me either, especially when I realized it was in the wrong way and was supposed to be pointing out. Why on earth isn't there a warning on the box?

Do you have a most favorite story from the set of this film?

Probably the funniest thing I've seen in a long time was when Penelope Cruz, who's in our movie, showed us her favorite party trick: playing the whole of "Hello" by Adele out of her bottom — note perfect. She didn't even soil herself — though apparently that chord change in the second chorus can get a bit messy sometimes. Thank you for the laughs, Penelope. And thank you for leaving your trailer unlocked. If anybody wants to buy a Spanish version of "Mein Kampf" it's on eBay.

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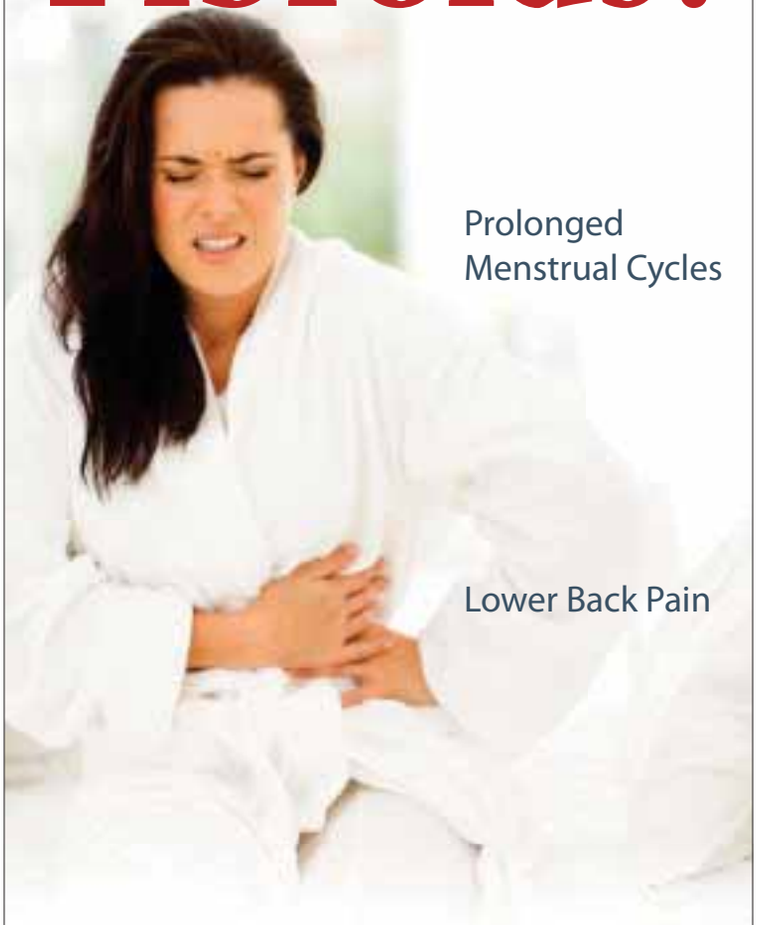

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"HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT"

The down and out tend to be glamorized or pitied. Not in Ben and Joshua Safdie's indie, which is so authentic it was written by an actual recovering addict. Author Arielle Holmes also plays a version of herself: a ferocious young woman who steamrolls through a barely eked-out life. It's honest but not boastful or self-righteous, and sometimes even very funny — just like real life, though even that makes it sound precious, which it amazingly is not.

Ben and Joshua Safdie's "Heaven Knows What" shows NYC's young, homeless and addicted. **RADIUS_TWC**

"MAN UP"

The romantic-comedy is dying, and perhaps only indies can save it. Like last year's "Sleeping With Other People," this British number — in which Lake Bell and Simon Pegg go on an accidental date — both dismantles cliches and embraces them. It's more of a rom-com than it sometimes lets on, but at least it's a sharp and prickly one.

Simon Pegg and Lake Bell make for a good, bickering rom-com team in last year's "Man Up." **SABAN FILMS**

"SCARFACE"

Al Pacino has never been more unhinged than he was in 1983's "Scarface." **PROVIDED**

Brian De Palma's purple, bloody remake of Howard Hawks' gangster great is now a stone-cold classic. But it's easy to forget it wasn't actually a bomb. It was a big hit — it was just hated and debated, riling many with its excesses: its gargantuan length, its fearless gore and Al Pacino's ridiculously accented turn, chewing not just the scenery but maybe the whole universe. The hip-hop community helped reclaim it, as did another group of fanboys: De Palma nerds. "Scarface" joins the likes of "Phantom of the Paradise," "Blow Out" and "Femme Fatale" as De Palmas whose craft and eccentricity were bound to be appreciated eventually — though here you can also thank Oliver Stone, whose cussy script provided the foundation for three hours of thrilling set pieces.

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The spy snitch

Holly Taylor of "The Americans" discusses her character's Season 4 dilemma.

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Holly Taylor calls us after leaving Wayne Hills High School in New Jersey, where she's balancing her senior year and starring in FX's spy drama "The Americans." The 18-year-old actress plays Paige Jennings, the up-until-last-season unknowing teenage daughter of agents Elizabeth (Keri Russell) and Philip Jennings (Matthew Rhys). In a devastating moment of panic, Taylor's character blows her parents' cover to her confidante — Pastor Tim (Kelly AuCoin) — in the Season 3 finale after they reveal their plan to fold her into their Russian informant scheme.

Her character picks up in Season 4 — premiering tonight at 10 p.m. — and will be faced with the unpleasant ramifications of her ratting out her parents. Taylor weighs in on Paige's upcoming consequences.

Paige Jennings finds rebellion in religion on "The Americans." JAMES MINCHIN/FX

The scene at the end of Season 3, where Paige calls Pastor Tim, must have been so dramatic to film, because not only is it emotionally charged, it's totally one-sided. What was that like for you?

That was an exciting scene to film, and I knew it would be challenging because when I have to be emotional and cry, I'll usually react off of what other people are doing. But for that, it's just me talking and we couldn't hear Pastor Tim on the other end of the phone. Dan Sackheim directed that episode and he was really helpful and got me to that headspace. He made sure I had time to collect my thoughts in-between takes and it ended up all flowing.

Was there any ad-libbing to that conversation? At one point, Paige specifically tells Pastor Tim, "They're not Americans," which is so funny given the name of the show.

No, that was all very specific to the script. That's her way of trying to break it down and understand it. [That phrase] was opposite of the show [title], but that's the irony of the show. I think that's a big revelation that Paige is seeing now.

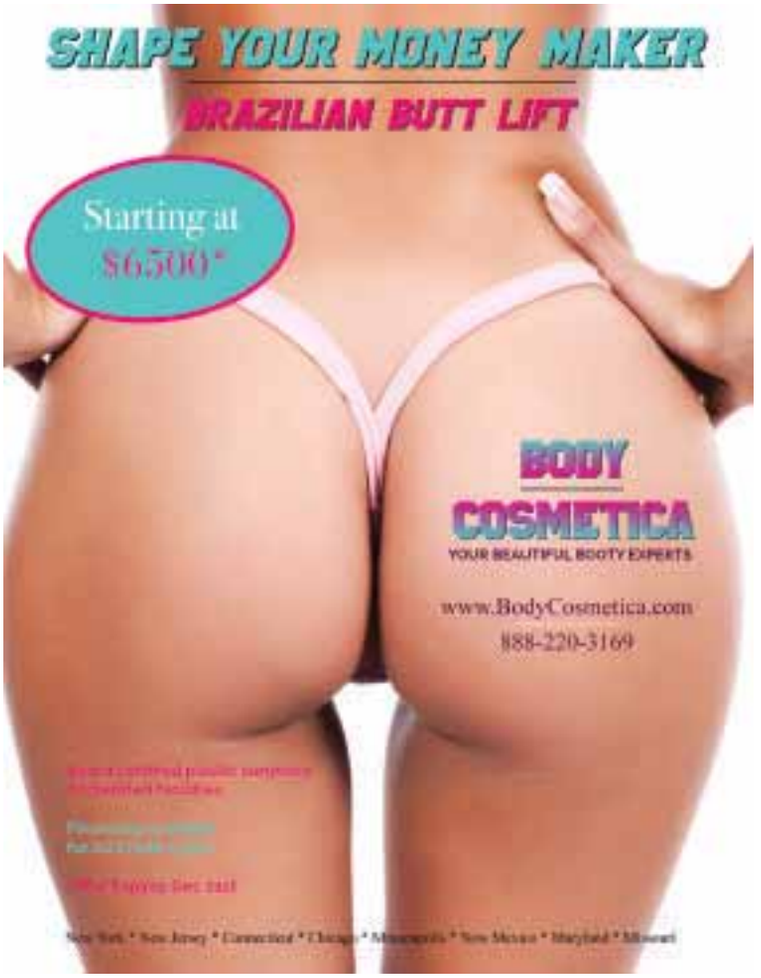
Do you think Paige would be a good spy?

She would make a good spy, but it might take some time for her to come around to the idea. There are a lot of parallels between the way her and Elizabeth [the mother] live their lives. We've seen [Paige] be really passionate with activism and the church, and Elizabeth has been the same way with her causes. They can relate on that level. She's already proven to be curious and constantly observant.

I saw you retweeting a fan comment that Paige is actually the only "good guy" of the show because she turns in Russian spies. What did you think about that concept?

I thought that was so interesting because a lot of the times people bash Paige, like "How could she do that?" But when you remove yourself from the connection to Elizabeth and Philip, we realize we're generally an American audience, who at that time were rooting for Americans. It's hard to be on a show where you're rooting for the other side, and it's not until you remove yourself from it that you can gain perspective. A lot of the fans are so passionate, but in real life, that's what we would have wanted. We would have wanted the spies to be turned in. I think that's one of the real debates of the show.

Season 4 of "The Americans" premieres on FX Wednesday at 10 p.m.



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SPRING REAL ESTATE PREVIEW

5 of NYC's most exciting real estate projects

From the world's largest Ferris wheel to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, here are the most buzzed-about developments to keep an eye on this spring.

JAMIE PRIMEAU

2. NEW YORK WHEEL

Developers are aiming to create the world's largest Ferris wheel in Staten Island. Samtani dubs the New York Wheel project as "wildly optimistic."

Ultimately, the goal is to turn Staten Island into a must-see tourist destination on par with Times Square. Projections include 4 million riders a year, which is more than the Statue of Liberty's annual visitors. The estimated charge per ride is $35.

New York Wheel

In the meantime, this project is becoming quite costly, as Samtani explains: "When they started construction it was $250 million or so. Now it's slated to cost more than $500 million."

3. CENTRAL PARK TOWER

Central Park Tower

When it comes to residential projects, keep Central Park Tower (previously Nordstrom Tower) on your radar. This 1,500-foot-high luxury condo will be on Billionaire's Row, aka 57th Street. The building's projected sellout is $4.4 billion.

However, Samtani compares the tower to a guinea pig. Whether the units sell will influence the overall luxury market. It's "the most ambitious project yet" for Gary Barnett, a major real estate developer, who hasn't yet secured financing.

"Developers look to people like Barnett, because he's set the market in so many ways," Samtani explains. "So if someone like him pauses and says, 'I can't do this right now,' it's going to impact a lot of people."

4. ESSEX CROSSING

Located on the Lower East Side, Essex Crossing is an area that's gone undeveloped since the 1960s. Formerly known as Seward Park Urban Renewal Area, the 1.9 million-square-foot development will include 1,000 apartments (half are affordable housing) and 850,000 square feet of commercial space.

There's a focus on community (think movie theater, bowling alley and parks), along with plans to expand Essex Street Market. Additionally, there will be 250,000 square feet of office space.

Essex Crossing

Samtani says Essex Crossing stands out because "it's one thing to build housing and tap into a hot area. It's another to try to transform an area like these guys are trying to do."

5. BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

Around $1 billion has been invested in Brooklyn Navy Yard, including $250 million of public money. With this project, the city is shifting its focus to manufacturing.

This industrial park — near South Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Downtown Brooklyn — will be home to tech-driven manufacturing projects, Samtani says. "It's going to be a mixture of traditional manufacturing and new ways of manufacturing," he says.

WeWork is getting an entire office building. "The idea is to attract those plug-in office workers," Samtani says. In other words, millennials and freelancers. The location "has a lot of possibility," he adds. "It's just a massive complex that's untapped. The fact that the city is making such a big bet on this is interesting."

Dock 72 at Brooklyn Navy Yard

1. Hudson Yards

Hudson Yards makes history as the biggest private real estate development in the country. In fact, it's the city's largest project since Rockefeller Center. "It's generating a lot of buzz purely based on its size," says Hiten Samtani, managing editor of The Real Deal.

So, how big is it? A whopping 17 million square feet, which includes multiple office towers and 5,000 apartments. The Culture Shed performance hub will be home to New York Fashion Week. Plus, a 1-million-square-foot mall will feature NYC's first Neiman Marcus.

The impact is monumental, according to Samtani: "It's been so big and so transformative that it's shifted the center of gravity in the city from Midtown more toward the West Side."

Hudson Yards ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE REAL DEAL

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What's hot in housing

As prices skyrocket in Manhattan and prime Brooklyn, buyers are snagging bargains as they travel deeper into the outer boroughs. ISTOCK

StreetEasy's next-big-thing neighborhoods of 2016

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- Pelham Parkway, Bronx
- Jamaica Estates, Queens
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- Parchester, Bronx
- Midwood, Brooklyn
- Elmhurst, Queens
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- Kew Gardens Hill, Queens

Streeteasy offers an insider's look at the current market.

TINA CHADHA
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Will you ever afford a home in New York City, where in 2015 the median sale price for a two-bedroom was $1.1 million?

If you're a believer — and you should be — the time to look is now. "Spring is really the hot time of year for the sales market," says Alan Lightfeldt, data scientist of NYC residential real estate authority StreetEasy. "It's the most amount of competition, and ultimately, the most amount of supply." Lightfeldt gives us the scoop on the current market.

Buyers gaining power

"In the last few months, we've seen continued price growth in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and there's no sign of it going down," says the expert.

But before you start looking into Westchester, there are some bright points. "Unlike in previous years where we saw very, very dramatic price increases in the spring, we expect this spring to be somewhere muted," says Lightfeldt.

"Prices will continue to climb, but the rate of growth will be lower than 2014 and 2015."

The reason: Buyers are getting savvy. "What we're seeing now is buyers who have endured years' worth of record-breaking prices in Manhattan and Brooklyn finally taking a breather, pressing the pause button and being a bit more choosy with their purchases," says Lightfeldt. "In January, we saw that in Brooklyn and Manhattan time on the market for homes was much longer than last year."

This slowdown puts pressure on sellers who have become accustomed to bidding wars and receiving offers that are over the asking price.

"We've also seen, at least in Brooklyn, discounts are on the rise as well," says Lightfeldt. "That's another indicator to us that buyers are able to wrestle more power at the table. They are negotiating more discounts and, at the same time, taking some more time to buy."

All signs point East

"East Brooklyn — where I would include Crown Heights and Bed-Stuy — is the area of the borough that is seeing the most price growth," says Lightfeldt. According to StreetEasy's January report, prices in the area grew more than 25 percent from last year. "This is the highest growth year-over-year of any submarket in the city. And it's the highest annual growth that we've ever seen at StreetEasy," he says. The silver lining is that although prices are growing the fastest in that general area, they still remain relatively low compared with the rest of the borough. "There is something happening in East Brooklyn," says Lightfeldt. "And it's directly related to affordability. And more buyers are opening their search to neighborhoods like East New York, because of really high prices elsewhere."

Hot neighborhoods for '16

"We calculated, using an index, what neighborhoods are prime to see the most new demand in 2016," explains Lightfeldt. It's no surprise the results were mostly in Queens and Brooklyn. No Manhattan neighborhoods made StreetEasy's Top 10 list. "Really what they all share is access to the subway and relatively low prices," says Lightfeldt. "As far out as Jamaica is — and I love to highlight this — it's actually highly connected. It's easy for you to get to Long Island or into the city. With any of our top 10 neighborhoods, it really is a story about affordability, and more New Yorkers moving further away from Manhattan and Brooklyn to find value. They're doing that in neighborhoods like Jamaica Estates or Woodside or Midwood. These are the areas that New Yorkers are turning to. It's not Manhattan or prime Brooklyn."

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* Subject to occupancy criteria
** Includes gas for cooking
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SLATE ON SOCCER: THE COMBO OF MESSI-NEYMAR IS BASICALLY UNFAIR

OPINION

RICH SLATE
@richslate

The French powerhouse club Paris Saint-Germain (24 wins, 5 draws, 1 loss) deserves a special shoutout for the amazing things that it was able to accomplish this past weekend. By virtue of its 9-0 destruction of poor Troyes, Paris SG picked up its fourth straight Ligue 1 title. They clinched the crown earlier than any other team in league history (with eight matches remaining) and superstar striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored four goals (!) in the landmark victory. Ligue 1 is far from the top league in Europe but this is still a great team that has reached the Champions League quarterfinals for the fourth season in a row.

Barcelona is the Golden State of Soccer

The way that the Golden State Warriors (59-6) have rightfully caught the attention of even casual basketball fans in this magical season, I think that the same is true of Barcelona (24 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses) when it comes to club soccer. Lionel Messi (22 goals, 10 assists) is still the best player in the world, so having him with an in-form Neymar (20 goals, 10 assists) and Luis Suarez (26 goals, 12 assists) is basically unfair to any other teams (La Liga and beyond). This is one of the best offensive sides that we'll ever see in our lifetimes: they have scored an absurd 84 goals (most in La Liga) and have allowed only 22 (2nd fewest). They have a really good chance to repeat as La Liga champs (up eight points on 2nd-place Atletico with nine matches left) and as the Champions League winner (leading Arsenal 2-0 headed into the 2nd leg of their Round-of-16 series).

MLS Update After the First Two Weeks of 2016

In the Eastern Conference, Montreal is the only team that has won both of its games while Columbus and the Red Bulls are each 0-2. In the Western Conference, San Jose and Sporting KC are both 2-0 while Vancouver and Seattle are each 0-2. The defending champion Portland Timbers are 1-1-0 after losing, 2-1, to the Earthquakes on Sunday. Portland's inaugural title last season (along with the fact that they played Columbus in the MLS Cup) was a good sign for MLS that two small-market clubs could make it so far when the top designated players have lately seemed to always choose the same predictable places (Los Angeles, Seattle and New York).

The USWNT Continues to Roll Along

The U.S. women's national team is a juggernaut and the 2015 World Cup champions have showed no sign of slowing down as they just captured the first-ever SheBelieves Cup last Wednesday in Boca Raton, Florida, with a 2-1 win over Germany. Earlier in the tournament, they had blanked England, 1-0, and France, 1-0, in back-to-back matches (all three of those opponents are ranked in the Top-5 in the world). Their stars led them in those triumphs as striker Alex Morgan picked up the Golden Boot (top scorer) and Golden Ball (best player) while Hope Solo received the Golden Glove (best goalkeeper). This extremely likable group will be the odds-on favorite to win the gold medal at the Rio Olympics this summer.

Lionel Messi and Neymar Jr have been a lethal combo for FC Barcelona. **ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES**

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The Rangers' Delino Deshields is a definite sleeper for the 2016 MLB season. GETTY IMAGES

FANTASY BASEBALL SLEEPERS FOR 2016

OPINION

KYLE BISHOP
@Rotoballer

With the wealth of information available these days, it's become more difficult for owners to identify true "sleepers." Players like Raisel Iglesias have seen their fantasy stock rise steadily after an entire offseason of hype. There are still some potential breakout bargains to be found, however:

Byung-Ho Park

The Twins took a calculated risk in signing the Korean slugger this winter. While the KBO is generally considered to be equivalent to the high minor leagues here in the States, Park slammed over 50 homers there in each of the last two seasons. Scouts agree that his power should translate, though there are concerns about his ability to handle the higher velocity he'll see in the majors. Park is unlikely to hit for average, but you won't find many other potential 30 homer bats in the back half of the draft.

Jonathan Schoop

Schoop has fairly obvious flaws, mainly his allergy to walks and the amount of swing and miss in his game. But he also has something that few others at the keystone can offer, and that's legitimate pop. Schoop may not have improved his plate discipline metrics last season, but he did hit the ball harder and took more of an all-fields approach, which helped improve his batting average. Had he not missed nearly half the season with a knee injury, Schoop might be getting much more attention in drafts. Instead, he's a complete afterthought. In a stacked Orioles lineup, Schoop could pile up the counting stats in 2016.

Delino Deshields

Despite having just 27 plate appearances above Double-A, DeShields found his way into an everyday role with the Rangers last season. The blazing fast outfielder stole 101 bases in the minors back in 2012 and was on a 50-steal pace last year before a hamstring injury slowed him. He's slated to open the season the leadoff hitter in Texas, so he should have plenty of opportunities to steal bases and score runs. DeShields offers owners an excellent and cheap alternative to the Reds' Billy Hamilton, who's being drafted nearly 100 picks earlier and still hasn't proven he can actually hit.

Kyle Hendricks

Hendricks broke into the bigs in 2014 and produced impressive surface stats, going 7-2 with a 2.46 ERA and 1.08 WHIP in his 13 starts. However, an anemic strikeout rate limited his utility in fantasy baseball leagues. Last season, though, his K% leaped by eight percentage points and his K/9 increased from 5.27 to 8.35. He gave up a few more homers, which contributed to the run-and-a-half rise in his ERA, but his walk rate remained excellent. The Cubs will have plenty of star power this season, and most of those players will command a hefty price on draft day. Hendricks could be one of the few fantasy bargains to be found in Wrigley this year.

Ian Kennedy

The five-year, $70 million contract given to Kennedy by the Royals was widely panned, but it's hard to think of a better landing spot for the veteran from a fantasy perspective. He goes from one of the worst defensive teams in baseball to arguably the best, and Kauffman Stadium is one of the most pitcher-friendly parks in the league. Kennedy's struck out over a batter per inning in each of the last two seasons and regularly posts solid walk rates, making him an excellent rebound candidate.

Kyle Bishop is a lead MLB columnist at RotoBaller.com, your secret weapon for winning fantasy leagues

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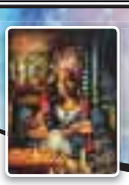

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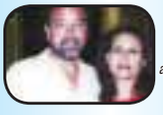

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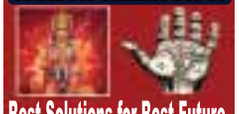

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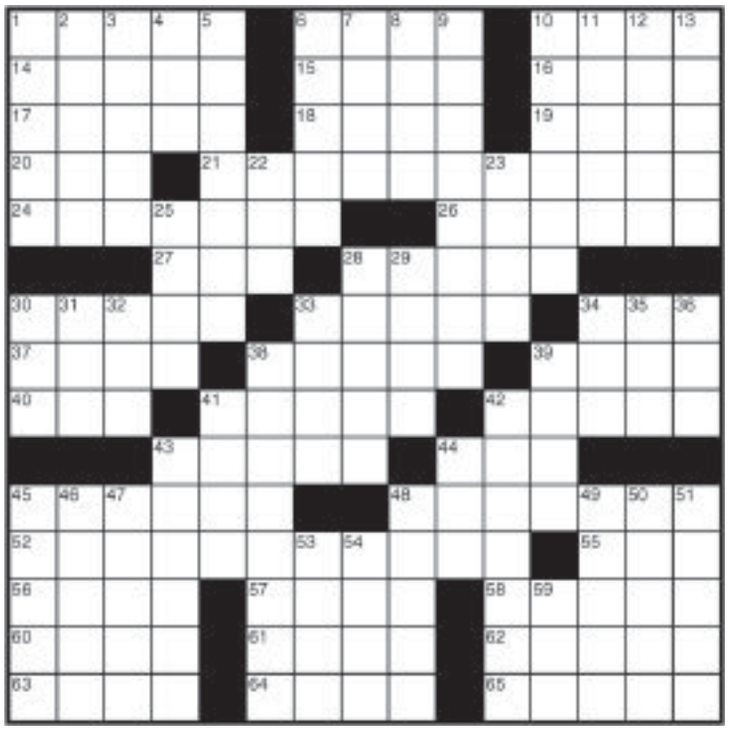

Across

1 Muppet grouch
6 k.d. — of music
10 Mosquito, to us
14 Ambergris source
15 Livy's route
16 James or Kett
17 Vikings
18 Average (hyph.)
19 Attention-getter
20 Victorian, e.g.
21 Physicist's spring? (2 wds.)
24 Avoids roadwork
26 Saffron dish
27 Homey dessert
28 Fix a manuscript
30 Censor
33 Dangerous
34 IBM and GE
37 Tall tale
38 Medicinal plants
39 No — luck!
40 Bellwether's mate
41 Mares' offspring
42 Dock
43 Blunts
44 Pen brand
45 Scale
48 Puzzling things
52 Cross your fingers (3 wds.)
55 Lauper's "— Bop"
56 Town east of Wichita
57 Be different
58 Ruhr Valley city
60 Eaves locale
61 "Beowulf," e.g.
62 Fields of study
63 Car-loan figs.
64 Nerve network
65 Coffee and steamed milk

Down

1 Bought
2 Water's edge
3 Gem weight
4 Hirt and Gore
5 Supply new gear
6 Kudrow and Bonet
7 Nefertiti's god
8 Snug retreat
9 Sea basses
10 Rang out
11 Lucy's sidekick
12 Amazing bargain
13 Florida bay
22 Ending for depart
23 Countless
25 Undo
28 Titles like Tarzan's
29 Playing marbles
30 Casual farewell
31 Order's partner
32 Sooner than
33 Pull through
34 Mongrel
35 Fall mo.
36 Quiet sound
38 Postpone (2 wds.)
39 Dry wines
41 Bad mood
42 So what? (2 wds.)
43 Coffee choices
44 Library sect.
45 Filmmaker — Kurosawa
46 Eavesdrop
47 Use crayons
48 "Ulysses" writer
49 Resource
50 Plains harvest
51 Intuit
53 Where hackles rise
54 Legal document
59 Tijuana "Mrs."

metro.us/sudoku

easy

					1		7	3
9						4		
2	3		6		5		9	
	5	2			8			4
			2	9	3			
8			5			2	3	
	9		8		6		2	5
		5						8
7	6		1					

hard

	4		2	5				
				3		1	2	6
	6				1	4		
	3	8						7
	2	4				5	1	
1						8	3	
		6	5				8	
4	8	2		6				
				4	9		6	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Keep an open mind and your emotions in check. Put your effort into personal accomplishment, taking on a challenge and maintaining good health.

Taurus Show confidence and certainty in all that you do. Your dominance will capture attention and help you vie for a position that would give you additional clout.

Gemini Don't leave anything undone. You'll be criticized if you fall short of the promises you've made. Ask for help if you need it, but be sure to finish what you start.

Cancer Express your feelings and plans. Romance is on an upswing. Doing small but thoughtful things for a special someone will bring you closer to each other.

Leo If you mix business with pleasure, a short excursion will pay off. Bringing about change that will influence your personal and professional lives is encouraged.

Virgo Look for something enjoyable to do in order to alleviate stress and feel better prepared to face any difficulties you are experiencing with others. Make love, not war.

Libra Don't bend under pressure. Only bring about the change you feel is going to be to your advantage. Emotional manipulation should be shut down before it starts.

Scorpio Use your creative imagination to turn an enjoyable hobby into a moneymaker. Share your ideas with someone who wants to take part in or support your efforts.

Sagittarius Be careful how you explain situations to others. You'll be accused of exaggerating or spreading rumors. Take care of your responsibilities before someone complains.

Capricorn Face emotional issues head-on in order to resolve any difference you have with a personal or professional partner. Love looks promising, and plans for two should be made.

Aquarius Keep close tabs on your spending and don't leave valuables out in the open. Focus on getting into shape and practicing a healthier lifestyle.

Pisces Doing something nice for someone will boost your reputation and open up opportunities for new friendships or work relationships to blossom. EUGENIA LAST

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